plants and some industries requiring superior grade coking coal and low-ash non-coking coal do face shortage due to limited availability of superior grade coking coal and low-ash non-coking coal in the country. The shortage is expected to be met through imports.

(b) For the current year (2004-05), all India demand of coal was assessed by Planning Commission/Department of Coal (DoC) at 404.19 million tonnes against which coal supply plan was finalized for 370.20 million tonnes raw coal from indigenous sources (CIL : 315.05 million tonnes; SCCL: 35 million tonnes & others: 20.1 million tonnes). The gap between coal demand and indigenous supply to the tune of 33.99 million tonnes is envisaged to be met through imports.

For the terminal year of Xth Plan (2006-07) all India demand of coal is assessed by Planning Commission/Department of Coal at 460.50 million tonnes of raw coal against which coal supply plan has been projected to be 405 million tonnes of raw coal from indigenous sources (CIL 350 million tonnes; SCCL: 36.13 million tonnes & others: 18.87 million tonnes). The gap between coal demand and indigenous supply is projected to be 55.5 million tonnes.

(c) and (d) Steel plants have been facing shortage of coking coal due to declining availability of indigenous coking coal on account of depleting reserves of coking coal in underground mines in Coal India Limited and problems in the mines of the major long-term suppliers abroad of steel plants which in turn has affected production of steel marginally. Government have taken steps to augment indigenous production through opening of new mines and also by reducing the duty of coking coal of less than 12% ash to 0% to facilitate import.

In addition to supplies from CIL sources the steel plants of the PSU Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) are permitted to lift coal from other captive coal block operator as and when surplus coal is available on account of various reasons.

Chalk mining in Uttaranchal

†787. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large-scale mining of chalk in Uttaranchal;

† Original notice c[f] the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the area of land in the said State permitted for mining of chalk and the number of people, to whom mining licenses have been issued in this regard;

(c) whether the mining sites have been inspected from time to time in view of the environmental sensitivity of the State;

(d) if so, whether all the mining work is being carried out as per stipulated conditions and norms; and

(e) if not, whether mining work would be regulated after inspection of the said mining sites by the experts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COALAND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO); (a) to (e) Mineral concessions are granted by the State Governments under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) (MMDR)Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder. However, only for minerals specified under the First Schedule to the aforesaid Act, prior approval of the Central Government is required before grant of mineral concessions by the State Government and chalk is not specified under the First Schedule. No priomapproval of the Central Government is required for grant of mining lease by the State Government. The Government of Uttaranchal has reported that there are no records of chalk mining in Uttaranchal.

CIL dues from SEBs/PSUs

788. SHRI R.K- ANAND: Will the Minister of COALAND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited (CIL) is to recover more than Rs. 6000/- crore from various SEBs/PSUs;

(b) if so, since when; and

(c) the steps taken to recover the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COALAND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Coal sale outstanding dues of subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited (CIL) as on 30.6.2004 (Provisional) is Rs. 4085.76 crores from State Electricity Board and Public Sector Undertakings.

(b) The said outstanding coal sale dues have accumulated over a period of more than 10 years.